

Remarks

Claims 1-15, 31, and 32 were previously pending in the application. In the present response, the claims are unchanged. Accordingly, after entry of the response Claims 1-15, 31, and 32 will remain pending. Reconsideration is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurauchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,323,921), herein referred to as “Kurauchi”, in view of Sawasaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,836,308), herein referred to as “Sawasaki”, and further in view of Nakajima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,187), herein referred to as “Nakajima”.

Claims 4, 6, 8, and 10-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurauchi in view of Sawasaki, in further view of Nakajima, as applied to Claims 3, 5, 7, and 9 above, and further in view of Yamada (U.S. Patent No. 6,140,998).

Of the above-referenced claims, Claim 1 is independent. Accordingly, once allowability of that claim is established, all claims depending therefrom are likewise allowable.

Claim 1 recites, “a protruding portion of the common electrode protruded by the light blocking pattern making contact with an end portion of the space” (emphasis added).

As shown in Applicants’ Figure 7, “A common electrode 220 comprising ITO or IZO is formed over the second transparent substrate 210 on which the light blocking pattern 230 is formed. The common electrode 220 directly makes contact with a color spacer 140 formed on the first substrate 100” [¶0089].

In contrast to Applicants' claimed subject matter, Kurauchi nor Sawasaki show a protruding portion of the common electrode protruded by the light blocking pattern making contact with an end portion of the space. Likewise, Nakajima shows in Figures 10A and 10B, "a second base 2 made of, for example, glass, and electrode layer 10 and an orientation film 12 are consecutively formed to thereby form a second substrate 4, and this second substrate 4 is connected on the first substrate 3 formed with the spacer 8 via the light shielding plate 18 located on the top of the spacer 8" (column 12, lines 40-45). "In the liquid crystal liquid crystal light valve of the present embodiment described above, the light shielding plate 18 is formed on the incident light side of the spacer 8" (column 12, lines 54-56). Accordingly, it is the light shielding plate 8 of Nakajima, not the electrode layer 10, which makes contact with the spacer 8. In this regard, the electrode layer 10 of Nakajima is buried beneath the both the light shielding plate 8 and an orientation film 12.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit independent Claim 1, and all claims depending therefrom are patentable.

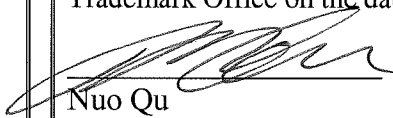
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Authorization is given to charge any fees due or credit any overpayments in regard to this communication to deposit account 50-2257. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned at (949) 752-7040 is welcomed and encouraged.

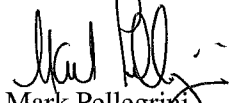
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Respectfully submitted,


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